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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/54/588/Add.7)*]

54/215. World Solar Programme 1996-2005

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/7 of 16 October 1998, by which it, *inter alia*, endorsed the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 as a contribution to the overall sustainable development agenda and invited all States Members of the United Nations to contribute to its successful implementation,

Recalling also resolution 29 C/14 concerning the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in November 1997,[1]

Reaffirming that the convening at Harare on 16 and 17 September 1996 of the World Solar Summit, at which the Harare Declaration on Solar Energy and Sustainable Development[2] was adopted and the preparation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005[3] approved, was a step in pursuance of the

[1] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-ninth Session, Paris, 21 October-12 November 1997*, vol. 1: *Resolutions*.

[2] A/53/395, annex, sect. II.

[3] Ibid., annex, sect. V.D.

implementation of Agenda 21,[4] which is a multifaceted and, at the same time, fundamental programme of action for achieving sustainable development,

Recognizing that mutually supportive efforts at the national and international levels are imperative in the pursuit of sustainable development, which includes, *inter alia*, the provision of financial resources and the transfer of technology for the application of cost-effective energy systems and wider use of environment-friendly, renewable energies,

Acknowledging the important role of the General Assembly in promoting the World Solar Programme 1996-2005,

Acknowledging also the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council as forums for the discussion of new and renewable sources of energy and sustainable development,

Expressing its appreciation of the efforts of the Secretary-General in bringing the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 to the attention of relevant sources of funding and technical assistance,

Noting the establishment of the Inter-agency Working Group on Energy with a view to ensuring the coordination of the activities of all relevant organizations of the United Nations system in the preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2001, and to contributing to sustainable development, taking into account the recommendations of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005,

Noting also that the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme 1996-2005[5] constitutes one of the major programmes of universal value of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005,

Calling for further action to ensure that the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 is fully integrated into and brought into the mainstream of the efforts of the United Nations system towards attaining the objective of sustainable development,

Emphasizing that the achievement of more substantive results in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, as part of the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, will require the more active and collaborative involvement of all concerned parties, including Governments, multilateral funding agencies and relevant parts of the United Nations system,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General,[6] including measures taken by the various entities of the United Nations system for the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005;

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[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[5] See A/53/395, annex, sect. IV.A.

[6] A/54/212.

2. *Notes with appreciation* the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in promoting, within its mandate, the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, in particular its education and training programmes in the field of new and renewable sources of energy, and, in this context, also notes with appreciation the initiative undertaken by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of inviting the competent organs and programmes of the United Nations system to cooperate in the implementation of the Programme;

3. *Notes* the role that the World Solar Commission has so far played in the mobilization of international support and assistance for the implementation of many of the national high-priority projects on renewable sources of energy included in the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, many of which are being executed with national funding;

4. *Commends highly* the efforts of many Member States in taking concrete national actions, including legislative measures, that have resulted in the wider use of renewable sources of energy in their countries;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the financial support that has been provided by some developed countries that are Members of the United Nations and some intergovernmental organizations, within and outside the United Nations system, in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005;

6. *Calls upon* all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to support, as appropriate, the efforts being made for the development of the renewable energy sector in developing countries on the basis of environment-friendly, renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the levels of investment necessary to expand energy supplies beyond urban areas;

7. *Takes note* of the decision of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization regarding the strategic importance of the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme 1996-2005 in attaining the objective of sustainable development,[7] and encourages the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to make efforts to promote public awareness in all Member States in this regard, with the support of international, regional and national institutions, both public and private;

8. *Invites* all Governments to encourage the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, in the promotion of research on and the development of renewable sources of energy, in particular, within this context, in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, in accordance with their respective national policies;

9. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the mobilization of adequate technical assistance and funding and the full utilization of existing international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects in the area of renewable sources of energy;

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[7] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirtieth Session, Paris, 26 October - 17 November 1999*, vol. 1: *Resolutions*, resolution 19.

10. *Invites* the Inter-agency Working Group on Energy to facilitate the contribution of the work under the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 to the consideration of the theme of energy by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its ninth session, to be held in 2001;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organizations, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on concrete action being taken for the effective implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, including promotion for mobilization of resources;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report on energy and sustainable development to the Commission on Sustainable Development a report on action to be taken to implement the present resolution, including further recommendations on appropriate modalities to promote new and renewable sources of energy;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005".

87th plenary meeting
22 December1999